

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

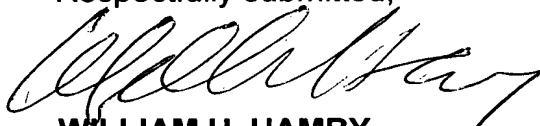
Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,762,910 to Nielinger et al. Nielinger et al. disclose a process for the preparation of polyamides of adipic acid, terephthalic acid, and hexamethylenediamine in an aqueous solution that is heated to at least 250 °C, or preferably 260 to 300 °C in less than 15 minutes at a pressure of at least 35 bar (claim 1 of Nielinger et al.) Claim 1 of the present application as amended discloses a polymerization process for the formation of polyamides or copolyamides comprising polymerizing an aqueous salt mixture of diacids and diamine at between 225 and 250 °C and pressures and times to avoid phase separation, which are conditions that are not disclosed by Nielinger. Support for the amendment to claim 1 (a) can be found on page 7, lines 11-12.

The amendment to part (b) of claim 1 further distinguishes the invention from Nielinger's step involving "distilling off water at a temperature of 260°-300° C. at a pressure of 1-40 bar,". Support for the changes to part (b) can be found on page 8, lines 21-22 of the application.

Nielinger et al. do not disclose the use of a natural circulation thermosyphon as claimed in claim 2 of the present invention. A natural circulation thermosyphon has the advantage that "the residence times in a continuous mode of operation are such that the degree of heat transfer and molecular mass building accomplished at the aforementioned early reaction stage is sufficient for controlled polymerization to the final degree in subsequent stages of the process, but shorter than the times associated with phase separation" (page 6, lines 29-34 of the present application). Nielinger et al. disclose only polyamides of adipic acid, terephthalic acid, and hexamethylenediamine (col. 2, lines 13-14). Claim 5 of the present application claims a random copolymer of polyhexamethylene terephthalamide and 2-methylpentamethylene terephthalamide, which is not disclosed in Nielinger.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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